

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01564 191220Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2002

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AO

SUBJECT: UNITA OFFICIAL DISCUSSES SITUATION IN ANGOLA

1. UNITA SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JORGE SANGUMBA, WHO ARRIVED LUSAKA FROM NOVA LISBOA MORNING AUGUST 18, TOLD EMBOFFS THAT AFTERNOON THAT SAVIMBI CURRENTLY IN LOBITO WHERE HE HAS TAKEN PERSONAL COMMAND OF UNITA FORCES THERE. SANGUMBA ACKNOWLEDGED UNITA AND FNLA FORCES SUFFERED INITIAL REVERSE THAT LEFT MPLA TEMPORARILY IN CONTROL OF TOWN. HOWEVER, UNITA HAD RECEIVED REINFORCEMENTS AND IS NOW BACK IN CITY.

2. SANGUMBA CONFIRMED SILVO PORTO AND NOVA LISBOA OCCUPIED BY UNITA, BUT THAT FIGHTING CONTINUING BETWEEN UNITA AND MPLA IN LUSO. NOTED THAT FIGHTING HAD ALSO FLARED AGAIN LUCALA WHERE UNITA AS WELL AS FNLA FORCES ENGAGED. SAID UNITA HAD OUSTED MPLA FROM CUSTOMS POST ON NAMBIAN BORDER BUT THAT SOME POCKETS

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01564 191220Z

OF MPLA RESISTANCE REMAIN IN FAR SOUTH.

3. SAGUMBA CLAIMED MPLA STRATEGY IS TO SEIZE AND OCCUPY LOBITO, BENGUELA, AND OTHER ECONOMICALLY STRATEGIC AREAS AS WELL AS LUANDA AND PORTIONS OF BENGUELA RAILWAY. THIS, HE SAID, WILL THEN PERMIT MPLA TO SEEK RECOGNITION IN NOVEMBER IF NOT EARLIER AS GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA BASED ON OCCUPATION ECONOMIC HEARTLAND. SAGUMBA ALLEGED THAT ACTING HICOM MACEDO IS "COMMUNIST" AND PRO-MPLA SYMPATHIZER WHO FACILITATING MPLA TAKEOVER. HE DISPUTED MACEDO CONTENTION (LUANDA 1162) THAT MINGAS HAD AUTHORITY TO ISSUE "DESPACHE" ON CONTROL OF PRIVATE BANKS, SINCE MATTER OF THIS IMPORTANCE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL AND/OR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

4. SANGUMBA CONCEDED THERE NOW LITTLE PROSPECT FOR MEETING OF THREE MOVEMENT LEADERS SOUGHT EARLIER BY SAVIMBI. ROBERTO WILL NOT MEET WITH NETO IN LIGHT OPEN MPLA DECLARATION OF WAR ON FNLA. EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION BY OAU DISCOUNTED AS IT HAS NEITHER FUNDS, PEACE-KEEPING FORCES, NOR SUFFICIENT UNITY OF PURPOSE TO IMPOSE SOLUTION ON WARRING ANGOLANS. SANGUMBA BELIEVES ONLY SOLUTION NOW IS FOR FNLA AND UNITA TO CONTINUE FIGHTING UNTIL MILITARY STALEMATE REACHED, MPLA RECOGNIZES IT UNABLE TO ACHIEVE SUPREMACY BY MILITARY MEANS, AND IT BECOMES WILLING TO ENTER INTO MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER TWO MOVEMENTS. SANGUMBA SAID UNITA HAD BEEN NAIVE AT TIME OF NAKURU AND EARLIER AGREEMENTS IN NOT REALIZING THAT MPLA'S ONLY PURPOSE WAS TO USE THESE TO GAIN ADDITIONAL TIME TO BRING IN MORE ARMS.

5. FOR WHAT IT WORTH, SANGUMBA CLAIMS MPLA MAY SOON GET MIG AIRCRAFT (HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT MODEL) TO BE FLOWN BY ALGERIAN OR CUBAN PILOTS. HE ALSO ALLEGED MPLA CURRENTLY RECIPIENT OF ENORMOUS SUMS OF SOVIET FUNDS. ASKED WHETHER UNITA HAS ACQUIRED FOREIGN ADVISERS YET, SANGUMBA SAID NO BUT IMPLIED THAT SOME MAY BE COMING SHORTLY.

6. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. UNITA MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN DEFUNCT TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, JEREMIAH CHITUNDA, TOLD LUSAKA PRESS CONFERENCE THERE WAS NO HOPE FOR PEACEFUL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 01564 191220Z

SOLUTION TO CIVIL WAR. CHITUNDA AFTER DESCRIBING MPLA MASSACRES OF FNLA AND UNITA SUPPORTERS IN LUANDA SAID UNITA HAD ENTERED FIGHTING ONLY AFTER LOSING ABOUT 1,000 SOLDIERS. CHITUNDA DENIED THERE IS "PACT" BETWEEN FNLA AND UNITA DESPITE THEIR MUTUAL FIGHT AGAINST MPLA. END UNCLASSIFIED. CHITUNDA, ACCOMPANIED BY SANGUMBA, CAME BY EMBASSY TO OBTAIN B-2 VISA. HE PLANS TO SPEND TWO WEEKS IN NEW YORK AND ELSEWHERE IN US AND INTENDS INTER ALIA CONSULT WITH AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE RE ANGOLAN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS IN US. CHITUNDA HIMSELF IS

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